

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 18-20 and 25 are pending in this application after entry of this amendment. Claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended. Claims 10-17 and 21-24 have been canceled. Claim 25 has been added. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and the remarks presented below is respectfully requested.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. The support is found in page 8, line 4 – 22 and Fig. 6.

Claim 19 and 20 have been amended for clarity.

Claim 25 has been added. Support is found in former claims 19 and 20.

Rejections of Claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejected the use of two terms “target analyte” and “cognate” in claims 19 and 20, respectively, as unclear.

Claim 19 has been amended to replace “target analyte” with “cognate.” New claim 25 has been added to recite that “said cognate is a target analyte.” Amended claims 19 and 20 thus distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections of Claims 1 - 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that it is unclear what is the attachment structure: (i) is the terminal dendrimer attached to said linker via one or more of the “at least two attachment moieties” or by a different attachment moiety; and (ii) what do the “at least two attachment moieties” attach to.

Claims 2 –9 depend on claim 1, which as amended requires:

- a) a linker comprising:
 - i) at least a first hydrophilic polymer portion; and
 - ii) a rigidity component portion;
- b) a terminal dendrimer comprising an aryl group with at least two attachment moieties wherein said terminal dendrimer is attached to a first region of said linker; and
- c) a functional moiety attached to a second region of said linker.

Thus now the attachment structure is clear: (i) the “terminal dendrimer is attached to a first region of said linker”; and (ii) the “at least two attachment moieties” is attached to “an aryl group,” which is also part of the terminal dendrimer.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections of Claims 18 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 18 –20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Specially, the Examiner alleges that method steps by which a hydrazide-derivatized second compound is produced.

Claims 19 and 20 depends on claim 18, which as amended, includes the step “providing a hydrazide-derivatized second compound.” Applicant submits that it is well known in the art how to make hydrazide-derivatized compounds. As such, the claims as amended include all the essential steps. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are in form for allowance and an early notification of such is requested. If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues may be disposed of by telephone, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (415) 781-1989. This paper is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a).

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP

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555 California Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, California 94104-1513
Telephone: (415) 781-1989
Fax: (415) 398-3249

By: 
Robin M. Silva, Reg. No. 38,304

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